

JPRS 77563

11 March 1981

Latin America Report

No. 2269



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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NEW ENERGY SOURCES SOUGHT AS FUEL IMPORT COSTS RISE

Import Imbalance

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The imbalance in the volume of Barbados oil imports in relation to increasing petroleum prices, is a factor that has forced the island to intensify its search for alternative sources of fuel, Trade Minister Mr Bernard St. John said yesterday.

Addressing an energy seminar Mr St. John said that in 1979 Barbados oil import bill stood at US \$21.6 million (Bds\$47.2 million) and for 1980 provisional figures indicated a cost of US\$32.3 million (Bds\$64.6 million).

He said that with imported crude from 928 744 barrels in 1979 to 968 977 last year, the figures "reflect a volume increase of 4.3 per cent during the period 1979-80, as compared to an increase of 32.2 per cent in the cost over the same period."

Mr St. John said the Government has been undertaking an in-depth study of the country's energy-sector over the past few years, and will continue to do so. He added that so far some progress has been made in terms of both conventional and alternative forms of energy, as well as energy management.

He said that Government expected the full results of geological and geophysical studies of the island's petroleum potential by the middle of this year. The studies are being carried out by the Mobil Oil Company which is also conducting oil exploration in Barbados.

The Minister said the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had given Barbados valuable assistance to monitor local petroleum activities.

Alternative Energy Sources

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Barbados is concentrating on developing new and renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind, wave, bagasse and biogas.

This decision is the result of the awareness of the finite nature of oil and gas supplies and the growing importance of the role that alternative energy sources must play in Barbados' future energy supply.

This approach to the energy problem was highlighted by Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Mr Bernard St. John as he delivered the welcome address at the Wind Energy Seminar yesterday at the Government Conference Centre, Wilkey. The seminar which continues until Thursday is being sponsored by the Latin America Energy Organisation (OLADE) and the Caribbean Meteorological Institute (CMI).

Mr St. John, outlining the seriousness of the energy problem for developing countries, emphasised the significance of developing alternative energy technologies.

The Minister stated that Government has been proceeding with its plans to make use of solar energy for space cooling, electricity, and water heating in three of its new complexes. He noted that it was gratifying that the local solar water heater manufacturing industry continued to grow and expand while interest in the use of this equipment continued to increase within the tourism and household sectors.

Mr St John said that interest in the use of wind as a source of energy was not new to Barbados and that 1980 had seen a revival of local interest in the use of wind power. He said there had also been several offers by foreign consultants to provide services with respect to the generation of electricity for the national grid by means of large-scale wind turbines.

The Minister said that the high cost of wind energy equipment continued to be a constraint while various problems needed to be solved with regard to the use of large machines. "However," he said, "there is a role of wind energy in the country's future energy scene."

He said that Barbados is now seeking grant assistance from an international funding agency to implement a project involving the use of a 50 kilowatt machine. The objectives of this programme would be to gain experience in the installation, maintenance and operation of wind turbines and in the problems involved in feeding wind generated electricity into the national grid.

Mr St. John stated that this experience, coupled with further research on wind regimes in the area, might well result in a decision to use wind power on a large scale for the production of electricity.

He noted that much attention was still focussed on oil and gas activities and that drilling operations continued in Woodbourne field. He said that the full results of an offshore and onshore geological and geophysical study of the island's petroleum potential would be available by the middle of this year.

Mr St. John said that it was generally accepted that the Caribbean area has an abundant source of solar and wind energy.

BILLION DOLLAR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT TO BEGIN IN 1982

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The feasibility studies on the proposed Blue Mountain multi-purpose hydro-power scheme have been completed and construction, estimated to cost \$1 billion, is expected to start in 1982.

Details of the studies were outlined Friday by Swedish consultants SWECO AB of Stockholm, Sweden, at a presentation function at the Jamaica Public Service Auditorium in New Kingston.

The project, described as the largest investment to be undertaken by Government, is to be constructed in three phases to provide domestic water, supply, power generation and irrigation water to the Yallahs Basin, the St. Catherine Plains, and the Kingston Metropolitan region.

Construction of phase one is expected to begin in 1982 and completed in 1986. It includes a hydro-electric power plant which will supply an average of 15 million gallons of domestic water daily.

Further studies will have to be done on phases two and three, the consultants advised.

It was pointed out that because ecological impacts will be encountered on the project, corrective measures will have to be taken to deal with the problems. Some of these are flooding of poultry farms in the area; reduction of flow in the Yallahs River during dry periods; landslides and the possible destruction of vegetation and wildlife.

Speaking at the opening of the presentation, Minister of State in the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Basil Buck told the gathering of local engineers and Government officials that the importance of this project in all three areas was vital to the process of national-building.

He said that there was optimism in the scheme, which is expected to solve the water problem by the year 2025, and help minimise the country's dependency on imported oil.

The three-man Swedish consulting team comprises Mr Ingvor Jernelius, Project Director, Mr Sven Jansson, Project Manager and Mr Rolf Hultman, Project Geologist.

The function was chaired by Managing Director of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, Mr W. V. Saunders.

Petroleum Corporation is the local agency responsible for the Blue Mountain multi-purpose scheme. --API

CSO: 3025

GASOLINE SUPPLY TO REMAIN AT 1980 LEVEL, DEALERS TOLD

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jan 81 p 12

[Text] Supplies of gasoline will not be increased this year, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Mining, the Hon. Basil Buck said Sunday.

Mr Buck addressing the annual convention of the Jamaica Gasoline Retailers' Association (JGRA) at the Mallard Beach Hyatt Hotel in Ocho Rios, St. Ann said that as part of an overall conservation programme the "net availability" of some petroleum products, particularly gasoline, cannot be increased this year.

He said that the government would be embarking on schemes to assist industry to "retrofit" and become more energy efficient. The government will also offer incentives as far as possible to achieve even greater success in the national energy conservation drive.

"We know that a growing economy will need to use additional energy. We, as a government, are committed to generating that growth. However, cooperation on energy conservation from all sectors of the economy must be realised if real growth is to be achieved," Mr Buck said.

He said that the 1980 conservation programme had been successful in terms of its overall goal, which was to conserve on the use of oil to fit with a net foreign exchange budget of U.S. \$276 million. The final figures for 1980 indicated that only U.S. \$255 million was actually spent on oil.

He said that a few members of the petrol distribution trade have, through a lack of sensitivity to the national welfare, consistently violated all the laws and agreements reached in assisting the conservation programme.

He appealed to those dealers in the national interest, to observe the rules particularly those relating to the established hours for sale of petrol and selling on Wednesday and Sundays, and warned that if the necessary cooperation was not forthcoming, the government would have no choice but to bring the full force of the law to bear on those opening illegally or change the law to make it more effective.

Mr Buck also dealt with the matter of short deliveries of petrol. He said that an agreement had been reached between the oil-marketing companies and the dealers and the problem was being examined, towards reaching a satisfactory arrangement within the next few weeks.

He said that the government was working on an energy bill, as it was concerned about the inadequacy of the various laws under which his Ministry now operated its energy programme.

He said that studies are also being conducted to include a package of incentives for energy consumers in the domestic and industrial/commercial sectors who make real efforts to conserve energy, by retrofitting and using alternative sources of energy to oil for example.

Mr Buck also announced that recommendations for an increase in the profit margin on petrol granted to the dealers made by a team of accountants appointed by the previous government, had been accepted and that new margins with a formula for automatic adjustments would be announced soon.

Chairman of the luncheon was the JGRA president, Mr Guy Morris. Mr Buck was introduced by Mr Roy Hutchinson and Mr Andrew Abrahams moved the vote of thanks.

At the Sunday morning session of the two-day convention the JGRA members re-elected Mr Morris president. Others elected were, Mr Vincent Chin, first vice-president, Mr Winston Clarke, second vice-president, Mr Andrew Abrahams, third vice-president and Mr Vivian Beckford, treasurer. Mr Roy Markham is the secretary manager.

CSO: 3025

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR VENEZUELAN CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES

Kingston THE DAILY CLARION In English 26 Jan 81 p 9

[Photo caption] Crude Oil Supply Contract: Mr Hugh Hart, chairman of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (second left) signing a contract Wednesday at the Terra Nova Hotel, St. Andrew, between Petrojam and the Venezuelan Petroleum Company, Petroleos de Venezuela, for the supply of crude oil to Jamaica. This contract brings into effect an oil facility agreement signed between the governments of Jamaica and Venezuela last November. Under this agreement, Venezuela will supply 16,000 barrels of crude oil a year, at 10 per cent credit of the total cost, over a 20-year period worth \$100 million per annum. At left is Mr Jaime Fernandez, international relations manager for Petroleos de Venezuela, who witnessed the signing on behalf of his company, a similar contract was signed on Tuesday in Venezuela by Dr Alvaro Perro, director of Petroleos de Venezuela. Others are Mr Headley Bryce (second right), secretary of Petrojam, and the Hon. Basil Bunk, Minister of State in the Ministry of Mining and Energy.

CRN: 3025

AREA EXPERTS DRAFT PLAN FOR CARICOM REQUIREMENTS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] A group of 11 West Indian experts, unanimous in their diagnosis of what's wrong with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and agreed on recommendations for improvement will in the coming months refine their report for consideration by the Governments.

The group, headed by President of the Development Bank, William Demas, had their fourth and final meeting in Barbados last weekend to examine the functioning of the integration movement.

They had previously met in Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, but last week was the first time all 11 members were present.

The process of examination included oral presentations and written memoranda from the business community and other sectors of Caribbean society.

Chairman Demas targets a mid-year presentation of the final report to the CARICOM Council of Ministers.

He said the members were unanimous in their diagnosis of the problems besetting the seven-year-old community and also on their recommendations for a strategy suited for the requirements of the decade of the 80s.

But he declined to make any disclosures about the preliminary reports so far prepared and the probable finished document.

CARICOM Secretary General, Dr Kurlough King, one of the 11 in the group, has expressed the hope that the final report would be widely circulated for information to an involvement of the Caribbean people.

Yesterday at the current 18th meeting of the Council of Ministers, Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles voiced the same hope.

All the members of the CARICOM review group are highly qualified West Indians, most with national regional and international work experience.

As the initial document announcing their appointment had said, "they all as individuals are strongly committed to West Indian unity and Caribbean integration."

The group's members are: William Dumas (chairman), President of the Caribbean Development Bank,

Arthur Brown--Deputy Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme,

Sir Arthur Lewis--Nobel prize-winning economist,

Allister McIntyre--Director of the Commodities Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Shridath Ramphal--Commonwealth Secretary General,

Dr Vaughan Lewis--Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies,

Edwin Carrington--Deputy Secretary General of the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) group's secretariat,

Charles Skeete--an executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank,

Silbourne Clarke--Director of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America,

Dr Kurlough King--Secretary General of the Caribbean Community Secretariat,

Charles Edwards--Executive Secretary of the Eastern Caribbean Common Market.

The terms of reference of the group are:

"To review the functioning of the Caribbean integration movement and to make recommendations for its improvement in the decade of the 1980s in the light of:

(a) the need to address critical financial and payments problems facing many countries in the region as a result of the world economic crisis and the international energy crisis, so that financial and balance-of-payments problems, particularly those caused by rising energy prices, can be alleviated and so that intraregional trade flows can be sustained and expanded,

(b) the need to implement more fully the provisions of Chapter VI of the common market annex to the treaty--particularly with regard to Article 46 on common market industrial programming, Article 47 on joint development of natural resources, Article 48 on marketing of agricultural products, Article 49 on rationalization of agricultural production, and Article 50 on cooperation in tourism so that regional production structures can be more effectively integrated and strengthened,

(c) the need to develop and implement effective regimes on the regulated movement of capital and of certain categories of scarce personnel the right of establishment and the right to provide services, and on the facilitation of joint ventures and regional projects,

(d) the need to review the system of incentives and protection for manufacturing industry under the treaty,

- (e) the need to promote joint action with regard to development and rationalization of intraregional and extraregional sea air transportation,
- (f) the need to create regional arrangements in the energy sector for the identification, development and production of hydrocarbon resources and for security of supply of petroleum products as well as to promote joint action in the area of alternative energy programmes,
- (g) the need for stronger ex ante co-ordination of, and prior consultation among the member states, on, external action, policies or commitments in both economic and non-economic areas,
- (h) the need to increase economic co-operation between CARICOM as a group and other countries of the Caribbean archipelago and Latin America,
- (i) the need to improve the machinery for making and implementing decisions in the Community,
- (j) the need to provide greater opportunities for greater benefits of both an economic and non-economic type to accrue to the less developed countries, and
- (k) any other factors considered relevant."

CSO: 1025

ALL-CARGO AIRLINE ESTABLISHED TO SERVICE CARICOM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jan 81 pp 1, 13

[text] A new move to solve the CARICOM air-cargo problem, which has proven a headache for Jamaican exporters particularly, is being made in the Southern Caribbean, with the formation of another all-cargo airline to service the region.

No formal announcement of the formation of the new carrier has yet been made, but its coming into being has been made known to Jamaican exporters. Present plans, apparently, are for the airline to operate mainly in the interest of Trinidad and Barbados, but there is talk of bringing Jamaica into the operation.

Not Too Happy

Jamaican exporters are said to be not too happy over the proposed service, since, up to the present, there is to be no Jamaican say in its operation. This exclusion, it is feared, may work to Jamaica's disadvantage.

Meanwhile, the situation with respect to British West Indian Airways is apparently not as bad as it was just before Christmas, when Jamaican exporters complained that their goods were not being taken to the Southern and Eastern Caribbean by B.W.I.A.

A statement issued yesterday by B.W.I.A. said: "This situation has eased somewhat and goods are now flowing more easily within the region."

Shortage of warehouse space at Piarco Airport in Trinidad has been the chief problem, the airline said. It recalled that "intermittent cargo embargoes have had to be placed on goods destined for the region in order that backlogs can be dealt with."

Backlog

A local export source said that the situation had been eased, but up to two weeks ago there was still a backlog of air cargo for Trinidad which had been uncleared from Jamaica by B.W.I.A.

Dealing with the complaint about increased fares by the airline which was made towards the end of last year by Jamaican exporters, B.W.I.A. gave its side of the story.

"The fact is that the fares have not been increased, but what has actually occurred is that B.W.I.A., having exhausted their quota of low-yield (excursion) fares, has reverted to their normal air fares," the statement said.

Air fares for all airlines operating out of Jamaica are set by the Air Transport Licensing Board, the statement said, and each year B.W.I.A. apportions a quota of excursion fares which are offered for group travel, and to students and young people under 21 years.

According to B.W.I.A., the 1980 quota of these such fares were exhausted in November, "thus forcing the airline to return to normal air fares for both first-class and economy travel."

CS01 3023

ECCM MEETING ENDS WITH OECS APPROVAL, APPEAL TO UK SEAMEN

UK Strike Plea

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Thursday, (CANAL)--The Eastern Caribbean Council of Ministers (ECCM) ended a meeting here tonight, reporting substantial progress in their two days of deliberations.

Conference sources said the ministers from the Windward and Leeward Islands ironed out some of the obstacles to establishment of a pool of experts to support realization of the countries' development plans.

The Ministers also agreed to the establishment of their new umbrella grouping--the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and have decided to recommend its adoption to their heads of government for efficiency and cost sharing. They also agreed that the location of its headquarters should be left for the decision of their heads of government, the sources said.

On the question of allocation of industries within the Eastern Caribbean's lesser developed countries (LDCs) the ministers agreed that those countries which have not yet set up industries allocated to them, should be given a year's grace, after which, failure to establish them would result in redistribution.

The ECCM Council expressed concern about the adverse effect that Britain's seamen's strike was having on the economies of its member states, particularly Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent which use British ships to ferry their main foreign exchange earning crops to the United Kingdom.

The ministers took a decision to call on the British port workers to recognise the hardship the strike is causing to their fellow port workers in the Caribbean.

A communique on the meeting is to be issued later tonight.

OECS Announcement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan. 26 (CANA): A treaty establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is to be signed on June 4 this year with ratification by member state expected one week later, it was officially announced here.

No venue was disclosed for the signing.

The statement issued by the Dominica Government said that all member countries--the Windwards and Leewards--are expected to embark on a communication programme aimed at educating their people about the renamed regional grouping.

The OECS replaces the Saint Lucia-based West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers (WISA) under which the Caribbeans Lesser Developed Countries in the Eastern Caribbean have been grouped for years.

Banana Shipments

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] The British National Union of Seamen, whose members are now on strike to back demands for a 16 per cent pay rise, has decided to grant a concession enabling banana ships to continue their trade with St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Last Tuesday, crews of two British ships voted to remain on strike despite pleas by the two West Indian islands that their vital banana trade was being crippled.

A hurricane in St. Lucia last year and the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent in 1979 had severely damaged the island's plantations and the banana crops are only just recovering.

The Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) has been in touch with the British union and it was decided that a volunteer crew will man the ships and the money will go towards rehabilitation efforts in the Windward Islands.

Mr Burns Bonadie CCL secretary-treasurer yesterday said the concession was made as a result of the good relations existing between the CCL and the British National Union of Seamen.

He said the owners of the banana ships, the Geest land and the Geest-tide, had also agreed to make a contribution of money to the Windward Islands Relief Fund.

C80: 3025

THRONE SPEECH OUTLINES GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES IN 1981

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Friday (CARA)--Antigua's Government of Sir Wilfred Jacobs yesterday outlined the Government's socio-economic programmes to be pursued this year in a Throne Speech read to a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

Independence, external relations and CARICOM were among the major highlights of the two-hour long Throne Speech which also marked the official opening of the second session of Parliament since the 1980 general election.

Sir Wilfred reaffirmed the Government's commitment to see Antigua and Barbuda become a unitary independent nation "by the middle of this year."

He said Antigua will be seeking membership of a number of international organisations including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), through which it hopes to set up joint diplomatic relations, the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth, and the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Sir Wilfred said that after independence the Government will also seek to become involved with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Foreign policy will be based on non-alignment, respect for territorial integrity and noninterference in internal affairs.

Sir Wilfred said that good relationship with its CARICOM partners will be the first priority of the Government... "external relations will continue to be on the consolidation and strengthening of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)."

The government "will not subordinate its CARICOM relationship to relations with third countries or groups of countries."

This policy he said, "is to ensure and safeguard the independence of the region as a whole, and, to advance the cause of complementary economic development in the area."

The Governor also spoke of plans to strengthen the Police Force and to provide training abroad for its members. He said conditions and security of the prison, which is a subject of much debate lately, will be improved.

On the question of economic development, the Governor said "it is the Government's intention to explore every avenue to ensure that the economy continues to expand this year."

There are plans for more investments during this year, that the construction industry will continue to boom and that tourism will continue to be the mainstay in the economy after independence with plans afoot for its further expansion.

Sir Wilfred took cognizance of the fact that the increasing oil prices had led to economic recession in many parts of the world.

Antigua and Barbuda were no exception. But he promised that the Government, however, "will still continue its vigorous programme of industrialisation."

The programme for agriculture includes resumption of sugar production this year.

Acknowledging that increasing oil prices had led to economic recession in many parts of the world--Antigua and Barbuda being no exception--he promised however, that Government "will still continue its vigorous programme of industrialisation."

CNO: 3025

OPPOSITION PLM LEADERS DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE ISSUE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Jan 81 p 13

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua.

(CANAL) — The Opposition Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) leader Robert Hall Thursday night reiterated his party's support for full political independence for Antigua and Barbuda.

Hall said: "The PLM could not and will not support the draft of the proposed independence constitution."

He was speaking to a large crowd at a public meeting in St. John's. The meeting was sponsored by the PLM to inform the public on the outcome of the recent London conference on independence for Antigua and Barbuda.

Hall accused the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) Government delegation at the December 4 to 18 conference of "being too occupied with their 175 a day rooms, rather than being interested in working out a document suitable to all the people of the two island state."

He said that "certain minor amendments were in fact made to the draft," but he maintained that "the document is more reflective of the thinking of ALP than of the majority of Antiguan and Barbudans."

Two nights before Premier Vere Bird had, told a public meeting that the draft document is now being ratified by the Independence Steering Committee to "effect the changes made in London," following which it will be submitted to the

Antiguan Parliament for final approval.

Another speaker at the PLM public meeting, barrister-at-law Lyndon Christian who was also at the London conference, told the crowd that government's delegation "missed a golden opportunity to have one of the best constitutions anywhere in the Caribbean."

Mr. Christian denied charges by the government delegation at the conference that "the PLM delegation wanted to create confusion in order to block the process of independence."

He said that "the PLM did not try to block the process of the constitution talks."

Christian said instead that his party team wanted to see "provisions against government's abuse of power, orderly and fair change of government, and a fair and impartial tribunal to define the electoral boundaries, in order to avoid gerrymandering," and for the right to strike as a fundamental right entrenched in the proposed constitution, rather than wanting to create confusion.

Christian said that the "ALP failed to meet its written commitment to Antigua and Barbuda, and resorted to a tactic of bluffing and cheating the Barbudans rather than coming to terms with the real issue in the Barbuda problem."

Senator Basil Peters, one of two appointed by the PLM, said in his address that "the road to

independence for V.G. Bird and his government is stormy."

Peters said that among other things the Barbuda problem would take long to resolve "and still such time when this problem is overcome, the road to independence will not be a smooth one."

He said: "The final constitution devised in London will be very little different to the one we have now as an associated state with Britain."

Peters accused the government delegation of "failing to see its mistakes in the present constitution," adding "it is sad for Antigua and Barbuda to have lost the opportunity to get a valid and constructive constitution."

The PLM speakers also gave their position on the question of secession for Barbuda.

Member of Parliament Charlesworth Samuel said: "While I support the view that Antigua and Barbuda should go into nationhood together, I am opposed to the government's intention to drag Barbuda along at any cost."

Samuel said: "Instead, the government should try and get together with the Barbudans to sort out their problems rather than wadding a big stick at them."

He said: "Barbuda has a genuine problem of underdevelopment," which he said "should not be taken for granted."

BRIEFS

BUDGET PROPOSAL--(NA)--The national budget for 1981 foresees spending amounting to 69,110,000,000,000 (69.11 trillion) pesos and a deficit of 10.83 trillion, according to a draft budget law which was handed to the legislative advisory committee yesterday. The accompanying comments on the budget state that public spending is a "political problem" and requires "conviction and decision-making capability" on the part of national authorities. Observers said that the unusually long 53-page typewritten text of the draft was a sort of "testament" by the economic team headed by Dr Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, who will leave office next month. The new budget is marked by a tendency toward diminishing government spending. The budget spending is topped by economic development (31.2 percent) followed immediately by education and culture (16.3), social welfare (15.1), general administration (11.4), and defence (10.6). [PY242359 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 24 Feb 81 p 11]

FISHING INDUSTRY CRISIS--(NA)--The Mar Del Plata Fishing Industry has been paralyzed by a financial crisis. Spokesmen for the deep-sea fishing trawlers chamber say that the crisis has now reached rock-bottom. Only 2 of 120 deep-sea trawlers are now working, they say, and many boats lie idle with "for sale" signs on them. Economy Minister Martinez de Hoz is said to have promised the fishermen that he would arrange for a line of special credits totalling \$270 million, but after 20 days, there has been no news of them. When banks and suppliers became aware that the credits were not forthcoming, they cut off their supplies and closed their accounts. [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 24 Feb 81 p 11]

CSO: 3020

CURRENT INFLATION RATE AT 11.2 PERCENT; RETAIL PRICES UP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

WHILE the Retail Price Index increased by 12.54% in the past 12 months, the current rate of inflation in Nassau is computed at 11.21%, according to a release from the Department of Statistics.

The increased price of food accounted for the 1.34% increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) from October to November. "Since November 1979 food prices advanced by 16.54%. And this latest increase in the food group accounted for 85% of the overall increase in the All Items Index," the department said.

Higher prices were recorded for turkey drumsticks, up from 86 cents a pound to \$1.23 a pound; a case of sodas (12 oz) up from \$6.90 to \$7.90; tomatoes up from 96 cents a pound to \$1.08; seasonal vegetables, including bananas, up from 7% to 12% higher and grits up from \$1.55 a pound to \$1.65 a pound.

These increases in the food sector were offset by appreciable reductions in price of grapefruits - down from 75 cents each to 52 cents, oranges down from 39 cents each to 31 cents; onions down from \$1.58 to \$1.34 per three pounds, frozen conch down from \$2.54 a pound to \$2.29 a pound, and pineapples down from \$1.99 each to \$1.79.

Other items which increased in price were health and personal care, including aspirins which increased 12 cents for 50 tablets, mouthwash, which increased 23 cents an 18 oz bottle, and antacid, which increased 14 cents.

The inflation rate in the respective "main components" of the Retail Price Index for New Providence were as follows:

Food: 16.54% for the year;
housing, 10% for the year;

clothing and footwear 12.93%; transport 10.76%; health and personal care, 12.01%; recreation and reading 8.07% and other goods and services 6.15% - giving an overall inflation figure of 11.21% for the year up to November.

In Grand Bahama the Retail Price Index is slightly higher - 12.75% - with food items advancing only about half as much as in New Providence.

"For the year ending November 1980, food items advanced by 8.38%" (compared to 16.54% in Nassau), the Department said. Higher prices were posted for grouper, jam and sausages, while lower prices were recorded for apples, sweet potatoes and turtles.

But while food costs have been lower in Grand Bahama all the other "main components" of the RPI there have been significantly higher than those in New Providence.

ADAMS APPROVES INCREASED LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Tom Adams, has agreed to increase the Barbados Development Bank's loans to small business from \$50 000 to \$100 000.

The Prime Minister has also agreed that the fund ceiling on total lending to small manufacturing should be increased from \$166 000 to \$1 million and to small business from \$84 000 to \$3 million.

Mr Adams told the Bank's fifth public general meeting at Dover Convention Centre yesterday that the new limits will apply as soon as the relevant order was amended.

The BDB's chairman, Mr David Seale, said that the bank hoped to see the industrial component of its portfolio increasing more rapidly than that of tourism.

He said this was not intended to suggest that the tourist sector would be neglected, but rather that the mix would change with more of the projects being of the ancillary type. He said that this would make for a deepening of the sector.

"I wish to stress that this emphasis given to industry is not intended to denigrate the contribution of tourism and of the other sectors to the development of the country," Mr Seale said.

He added that the BDB believed that tourism and agriculture must continue to make their substantial contribution both in their own right and as essential linkages for the development of a transformed industrial sector.

"Nevertheless, it is our view that industry's capacity for growth is more open-ended, and that the industrial sector has the greatest potential for the development of a dynamic export programme with the flexibility to respond quickly to the diversified and changing demands of external and domestic markets."

Mr Adams said he was happy to see that the bank chairman had reaffirmed that the proposed emphasis on the development of industry and of small business would not mean that the bank would ignore the other sectors of the economy.

Mr Adams said that the channels through which money will flow to the industrial sector were:

-Government, with proper management, should generate savings by way of fiscal surpluses and invest these savings, as well as borrow additional resources;

-the financial institutions or financial intermediaries (including non-bank institutions such as insurance companies and pension funds) which mobilize savings from other economic units, and which may invest directly or indirectly;

-Individuals; and

-enterprises which are themselves self-financing.

Mr Adams noted that in the Barbadian mixed economy, most of the direct investment in the industrial sector was private in origin, although in a few key projects public capital has played a major role.

Mr Adams said that as a result of the Central Bank's recent measures (to curb borrowing for consumer expenditure) more funds have become available for investment. He believed that with the concomitant action of raising the interest rates on savings instruments Barbadians will save more and investment will increase.

"These twin levers should show results in the next two or three years when the volume of investment in all sectors should increase substantially, but it would be, I think, in the industrial sector that increases in investment will be most significant," the Prime Minister said.

CMS: 3025

LONG PHONE STRIKE SETTLED; NEW LEGISLATION EYED

Adams Remarks

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpts] As the impasse between the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Telephone Company heightens, Prime Minister Tom Adams has urged that Government be left to work towards settling the matter according to what it thought was right.

The BWU has been locked in battle with the company for more than a month now over the alleged unfair dismissal of David Giles, President of the BWU Division at the company.

Mr Adams, addressing the final day of his ruling Barbados Labour Party's Annual Conference at Marine House yesterday, said Government has for some months been preparing a new Employment Bill which will include provisions against unfair dismissals.

And he said it was a pity that the long processes of consultation involved before bringing the Bill to the House of Assembly has slowed its progress.

"...but the Government will at least now have the opportunity of ensuring that for the future the employee-representative is fully protected from arbitrary dismissal at his workplace."

The Prime Minister told a packed Marine House hall that it was unfortunate that both sides--the BWU and the Telephone Company--were seeing the current dispute as a trial of strength. For, he added, in this sort of battle "Nobody can win."

Mr Adams said his party did not have to seek victories at Government Hill, (headquarters of the Telephone Company) nor Fairchild Street (headquarters of the BWU).

"Leave the Government to work towards settling this matter according to what it thinks is right."

Mr Adams said it increasingly appeared that the Union could not conduct a strike successfully without escalating it, and this inevitably brought it into conflict with Government.

"This has given the employers a fearful weapon for, secure in the knowledge that, except possibly in the sugar industry, the Union cannot normally break a strong and resolute employer by industrial action confined to the one business, the Employers' Confederation from time to time feels free to confront the Union and then demand the Government's support for law, order and essential services when the Union resorts to its ultimate weapon of the sympathy strike."

"The Government then is embarrassed, because it not only has to take sides in quarrels sometimes quite irrelevant to any Government interest, as in the Clarke and Tucker strike in 1972, but it has to enforce its will on behalf of the side it takes."

Settlement Terms

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Avonda Burrows: "Phone Workers Go Back Monday"]

[Text] Telephone company workers have ended their strike, after 22 days.

David Giles, who the company dismissed last December 11, along with his more than 400 unionised colleagues who were on strike for the past three weeks to back demands for his reinstatement, will be at their work posts again from Monday.

And Giles will continue as shop steward of the Barbados Workers' Union Division at the Company.

Minister of Labour, Senator Don Blackman, held a marathon meeting with officials of the Barbados Telephone Company, and the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) on Thursday night, and afterwards it was confirmed that Giles had got back his job.

The three sides met again at the Labour Department, National Insurance Building, Bridgetown, for eight hours yesterday, in what was to be the last in a series of talks held simultaneously between the three parties in the last 36 hours to try to end the dispute.

However, one outstanding matter is still to be resolved. This concerns full payment of wages and salaries for employees who walked off the job in support of Giles and who had been carrying out a 24-hour picket of the company's Windward Lodge complex since midnight on January 8 and until the talks came to an end yesterday.

The BWU said it would be fighting "tooth and nail" to have the workers who were on strike compensated.

At the conclusion of yesterday's talks, BWU General Secretary, Mr Frank Walcott, told reporters: "We are very glad that we have come to the end of a long day, and the most important thing is that Mr Giles has been reinstated."

Mr Walcott hoped that those who had been campaigning against the Union during the dispute stating that the BWU was wrong, have come to realise what industrial relations mean in this country.

"This has been a good day for the workers of this country," the BWU chief said. He added that at last employers have come to realise that if a worker was right his right must be vindicated.

Mr Walcott said the BWU and workers had made this country what it was, and he added that the BWU therefore had a right to defend its workers in any way.

Mr Walcott publicly thanked Senator Blackman for settling the issue and added that the BWU had left the matter of payment to strikers by the company for the Labour Minister to pursue.

"Workers were not at fault for the issue. The company was at fault," Mr Walcott said to bear out his determination that the workers should be paid by the company.

"...where you are wrong, like in an accident if you are negligent, you do not ask the owner of the motorcar to pay all the damages..you have to be party to those damages."

The BWU was also paying the workers, while they were on strike, money equivalent to their individual pay at work.

Mr Walcott said that a principle accepted by the company was that workers who return to work will not be victimised.

It was also agreed that the notice board at a company was a place of privilege and therefore persons should not be disciplined for posting statements on a board that was privileged.

At the same time the BSU made its position clear that, while it believed the notice board was a privileged area, it does not condone any personal abuse.

(Giles' employers said they had dismissed him for posting a "scurrilous" attack on management of the company's staff notice board).

Mr Walcott castigated the print media for the stand it took during the dispute, saying that when one read newspaper comments one would believe that one was in the heart of Africa.

"When you read the newspapers you think you are in Pretoria instead of Barbados," he said. "We operate against people who are anti-union."

Meanwhile, the BWU has called a meeting for members of its telephone company division today at 10 a.m. at "Unity House," Roebuck Street.

Blackman Assessment

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Government may have to introduce legislation for the compulsory recognition of trade unions, Minister of Labour, Senator Don Blackman said yesterday.

He was speaking to reporters shortly after he had effected a settlement in the dispute between the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Telephone Company.

Senator Blackman said he recognised that in some local businesses, workers were victimised if it came to the attention of their employer that they had joined a union.

"The Ministry of Labour is considering two possible alternatives in dealing with this problem," he added.

He said that Government may have to introduce legislation for the compulsory recognition of trade unions; and in order to protect workers who received sub-standard wages, Government now stood "poised" to introduce a new and comprehensive Factories Bill. This Bill is to come before Parliament in the next "couple of weeks."

The Factories Bill will provide Labour inspectors with the kind of tools to enable them to monitor conditions of work within the factory much more effectively than obtains at present.

Senator Blackman said that, at the same time, Cabinet has approved the "beefing up" of factory inspection by the Labour Department and the Labour Ministry was currently concluding a technical assistance programme with the Government of Canada.

Senator Blackman said the programme was being undertaken with a view to improving the capabilities of the factory inspectors within the Labour Ministry.

Senator Blackman said that the BWU-Telephone Company dispute served the purpose of educating a large segment of the Barbadian public about the importance of industrial relations.

He said the Barbados Government had decided that no time could be lost in implementing legislation relating to unfair dismissals at the earlier opportunity.

He said his Ministry has been working on the legislation for some time now and it would be submitted to Parliament as soon as the processes of consultation from various interest groups have been completed.

Turning specifically to the dispute, Senator Blackman said there were some features imported into the negotiations which gave rise to a great deal of animosity, which, in turn, gave rise to features that operated against a more "expeditious setting."

"For the most part, when I chaired the meeting both parties made sincere efforts to resolve the issue," Senator Blackman however added.

The dispute was the first "rights" dispute the Labour Minister has had to settle since his appointment as Barbados' Minister of Labour in 1978.

Senator Blackman said he was never invited to conciliate the dispute between the BWU and the Telephone Company.

C80: 3025

STATUS OF SUGAR, OTHER FARM PRODUCTION DISCUSSED

Government Sugar Shares

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] The general membership of the Barbados Labour Party has supported the Government of Barbados in its decision to utilize some of the funds from the sugar levies to purchase shares in Sugar Factories Limited.

Government recently announced its announced intention to reform the Sugar Levy System in Barbados by:

1. The abolition of the capital rehabilitation Reserve Fund, the Price Stabilisation Reserve Fund and the Labour Welfare Fund.
2. The imposition of one per cent less on Ex Factory Sugar, Molasses and Bagasse proceeds to finance industrywide research and development.
3. That the accumulated Levy Funds now estimated at \$24.5 m should be allocated to various uses.

Minister of Agriculture Lloyd D. Brathwaite, told his party conference that government is using \$1 million out of the accumulated funds to purchase machinery for small farmers and \$3 million to purchase shares in Sugar Factories Limited so as to enable farmers to have a say in the fixing of sugar prices.

The conference resolution which was sponsored by the St. Andrew constituency branch of the party, congratulated the government on its wise decision to utilize the funds.

A spokesman for the St. Andrew constituency branch told the conference that the funds were first established in 1947, and that it was his opinion that if any workers were to be given a "handout" then they should be those who worked in the industry in the 1940s and 50s and who are now retired on little or no pensions.

Prime Minister Tom Adams said it was his government's intention to take control of the country's major industry by becoming the biggest single share holder in Sugar Factories Limited.

Government is already a major grower of sugar canes through the Agricultural Development Corporations' plantations. The Barbados Workers Union and government are presently discussing government's proposal for the distribution of the \$24.5 million.

Agricultural Society Review

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] The Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS) has said that the importation of carrots, tomatoes and cabbages in 1980 had some adverse effects on the orderly marketing of the commodities produced locally.

The BAS said that the export tax of 1.5 cents per pound on yams charged by the Barbados Marketing Corporation failed to create the same incentive for the farmers as it did for the BMC to continue to inspect the produce.

Dairy farmers are being encouraged to increase production but the BAS feels that with today's costs for feed, labour, water, electricity, medicine and veterinary services the 45 cents per pound paid by the Pine Hill Dairy is no longer able to experience a reasonable return for the farmers.

The 45 cents has been seen as a disincentive to future milk production.

In its overview of the year 1980, the BAS said that pig marketing had emerged from the "mire and clay" of uncertainty and instability it was in 1976-1977 to a more firm foundation of planned production and marketing in 1980.

"As farmers continue to increase production they too wish that local processors, including those at Fontabelle will be called upon to use the local pork trimmings so as to support the local industry," the BAS said.

Poultry farmers have started the new year with a new price--\$1.47 per pound live--but the BAS think they however, have a problem. Processors have informed growers of broiler chickens that they will pay no more than \$1.32 and \$1.36 per pound. The BAS hoped that the authorities who agreed on the price of \$1.47 would impress upon the processors to give to the farmers what they deserve.

The Society urged that the export market for sheep this year must be on a regular basis if sheep farmers were to be encouraged to continue to keep quality sheep. These sheep are noted for their breed rather than for their meat and slaughtering them is "not what our farmers would appreciate," the BAS said.

The BAS has therefore recommended that the export of Black Belly Sheep be developed for 1981.

"In all, this year is expected to produce results. 'Planned production,' will be the 'watchwords' and record keeping must be the 'in thing.'" the BAS exhorted its members.

Animal Forage

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture is currently encouraging farmers to cultivate more forage crops for animals, according to Mr Robert Quintyne, Senior Agricultural Officer with the Animal Nutrition Department.

He pointed out that traditionally, farmers have been using cane tops and other grasses, like sour grass, to feed their animals, but then the nutritive value of these diminish greatly with dryness or maturity.

Pangola Grass was introduced during the 1950s for pasture improvement. While the Pangola has proven to be a grass of high nutritive value, it is susceptible to a virus disease which was uncovered in Suriname and which is now liable to hit the Caribbean area.

Another problem associated with it is that it needs a lot of rainfall or a lot of water through irrigation. In addition to this, production is very low during the dry season, which is when the animals' need is most, and this in spite of irrigation systems.

Barbados is therefore concerned about finding a grass which is high in nutritive value, even under low rainfall conditions, and which is at the same time resistant to diseases. Through local research, two such grasses have been identified.

The Coastal Bermuda Grass, related to Devil Grass; and the Giant African Star Grass have been found to be of very high nutritive value, very palatable to the animals, and production remains high during the dry season. They also stand up well to diseases, and the Ministry of Agriculture is making them available to farmers free of cost.

In addition, two others have been brought in from Australia. Buffel and Bamusa are two very drought resistant varieties, widely used in the tropical parts of Australia. They yield very heavily and have an accepted nutritive value. However, the Ministry continues to stress the value of Elephant Grass and other improved strains to small farmers.

Mr Quintyne said that grass should make up a major part of the diet of ruminants like cows and sheep, if profits are to be maximised. Pasture is relatively cheap he said and their value can be improved by the introduction of legumes into the diet. [as published]

Legumes, which are part of the beans family, are now being screened by the Agricultural Department, and special attention is being paid to certain strains which originally came from this region, but which have been developed in Australia. Sinatro and Glycine are the two of these receiving special attention.

In addition, the use of local Rabbit Vine, Blue Pea or Blue Vine as it is sometimes called, and River Tamarind are being stressed. Mr Quintyne said that the River Tamarind is being hailed as the wonder plant of the future, because of its wide range of uses. It contains lots of protein, minerals and Vitamin A.

Farmers are now being strongly advised to plant these in their pastures, because it has been found that animals eat more grass if there is a high protein content in their diet.

Those with very little land or only a few animals are being advised to plant these legumes in their pastures, and then cut them to feed the animals in troughs. In this way, they grow again quickly and farmers can supplement the diets by using concentrates. This allows them to produce meat and milk at lower cost.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

WORK PERMIT BAN--The Prime Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr Tom Adams, has directed that all concerned be informed that the Government does not intend to grant work permits for domestic servants to enter the country from the Eastern Caribbean or elsewhere, the Ministry of Defence and Security has announced. This decision is in keeping with Government's policy to restrict the grant of work permits to situations where there are no nationals available for such employment. The statement has been made against a background of an increase in the number of Barbadian householders who have been submitting letters in support of applications made by non-nationals for employment as domestic servants. (GIB) [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 1]

DISPUTE WITH GRENADA--Prime Minister Adams on Sunday received the total support of his party conference in the "War of Words" with Grenada. The party unanimously passed the following resolution which was sponsored by the Christ Church East Central Branch. "Whereas the Prime Minister of this country has been subjected to unwarranted abuse by the Maurice Bishop regime of Grenada, and whereas the said regime is in breach of its promise to hold early elections in that country, Be it resolved that the conference support the democratically elected Government of Barbados and in particular the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs in calling upon the Bishop regime to hold elections without any further delay." [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 2]

GDP UP 15.4 PERCENT, INCOME ALSO INCREASES, IN 1979-80

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Bermuda's Gross Domestic Product rose 15.4 percent during 1979-80 to reach \$598.4 million, a Government report has revealed.

G.D.P. calculations are regarded as an effective measurement of a country's economic well-being and the latest figure places the Island within the world's top ten wealthiest states on a per capita basis.

The figure emerges from The Economic Structure and National Accounts of Bermuda 1975 to 1980--a statistical analysis which was tabled in the House of Assembly on Friday by the Premier, the Hon. David Gibbons.

It shows, for the first time, an estimate of the Country's spending on domestically produced goods and services which indicates a real growth of 6.6 percent for the 12 months ended March 31, 1980, with an average growth of 4 percent over the last four years.

Total income, during 1979-80, was estimated to have increased from \$438.9 million to \$510.3 million--a rise of 16.2 percent--while employment income during the same period grew 15.5 percent to \$374.1 million. Consumer spending rose to \$424.7 million--a gain of 13.5 percent--but in volume terms remained almost unchanged, reflecting the effects of inflation on consumer buying power.

In fact, spending on electricity and petroleum products rose nearly 35 percent but was more than accounted for by price increases and implies a significant reduction in energy consumption.

But despite higher fuel and power costs, consumers increased by more than 20 percent their expenditures abroad and on air transport. Spending overseas rose from \$19 million to \$23.1 million while air fares accounted for outlays of \$14.6 million, up from \$12.3 million.

By comparison, there was relatively low growth of consumer spending on personal and financial services, clothing, and food and beverages.

The 72-page report provides additional evidence that 1979-80 was a good year for tourism spending which rose almost a quarter to \$244.6 million, with hotels and restaurants claiming the lion's share and benefiting to the tune of \$181.1 million.

Cruise passengers spent just over \$15 million while tourists arriving by air spent \$229.5 million.

Spending by international companies and "foreign bases" expanded by slightly more than 8 percent to \$105 million.

CSO: 3025

BRIG GEN GALVEZ INTERVIEWED ON SEPMI ANNIVERSARY

Purposes and Objectives

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 23 Jan 81 pp 42-43

[Interview with Brig Gen William Galvez, chairman of National Council of SEPMI, by Miguel A. Masjuan]

[Text] SEPMI [Society for Patriotic-Military Education] is celebrating its first anniversary. This organization for all Cuban citizens over 12 is basically interested in educating the people, especially the new generations, in the spirit of socialist patriotism, complete readiness to defend the fatherland and loyalty to the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba]. One way this is done is by publicizing the heroic, revolutionary and labor traditions of the people throughout the history of Cuba, the military feats of the Liberating Army, the Rebel Army and the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], their worthy successor, and the struggle of the underground fighters during different revolutionary periods.

Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the PCC, first vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers and minister of the FAR, referred to the originality of SEPMI when he closed the SEPMI Constitutional Conference. It helps increase the defensive potential of the country in cooperation with the armed forces without being part of the armed forces. Its members are trained through systematic practice of military sports and studies which are useful not only for service in the FAR but to benefit the national economy.

On this first anniversary, BOHEMIA interviewed Brig Gen William Galvez, chairman of the National Council of SEPMI.

Question: We have recently verified that countless youths are interested in participating in SEPMI activities. The question often arises: what is SEPMI?

WG: SEPMI is a social organization for Cuban citizens willing to accept its statutes, pay their dues and work to strengthen the defensive capacity of our country as volunteers.

It attempts to unite, organize and train youths, breaking away from traditional means which are not always very pleasant. SEPMI is a suitable way for our youth to channel their aspirations through sports and entertaining and wholesome

activities. This combination that only SEMI provides permits us to prepare our youth for life militarily, practically and socially and give them a profound love for the fatherland and the party.

Question: What are SEMI's objectives?

WG: Our party's educational policy aims to train new generations in the scientific, ideological and moral principles of communism. This requires us to constantly create mechanisms to carry out this objective. SEMI proposes to help train youths and people in general to defend the fatherland and to insure active participation of its members in patriotic-military work, complete loyalty to our party, love for proletarian internationalism and friendship among peoples. It also proposes to publicize the heroic traditions of our people and their armed forces, working systematically to train youths for service in the FAR and to promote technical military sports.

Question: General, do you want to explain SEMI's work to us?

WG: The experience obtained during this first year of work has permitted us to revision the direction of our efforts in 1981, first, toward the complete fulfillment of SEMI governing documents and improvement of our work relations with local associations, especially courses for prerecruits. We must also increase participation in patriotic-military camping, encourage socialist emulation, strengthen existing relations with mass organizations and state organisms and increase participation in national competitions stemming from local competitions.

We must build municipal firing ranges, develop sports activism, give special attention to writing budgets and following them carefully, make optimum rational use of the material base of study, increase the quality of planned technological maintenance, apply a correct cadre policy, improve the methodological level of the specialists who give the instruction, improve management and control and develop the process of professional orientation, attraction and selection of candidates to enter military education centers.

Question: Why does the date of constitution of SEMI coincide with the anniversary of the birth of our national hero, Jose Marti?

WG: Our party's educational policy is based on Marxist-Leninist concepts and the Marti principles concerning education of new generations. SEMI has the duty, along with the rest of our political and mass organizations, to carry out this policy and thus felt it should give homage to our national hero by constituting SEMI on the day his birth is commemorated. In this way, we also pay tribute to the entire generation and all the patriots who made our existence possible.

Jose Marti said: "The happiest people are those who have best educated their children in the process of thinking and the management of feelings."

Question: One last question, General. Is there any relationship between SEMI and the Territorial Militia?

WG: SEMI proposes to offer effective aid in training the Territorial Militia by providing firing ranges, specialists and armaments for training purposes.

This year SEPMI will begin to construct these ranges in the towns. This will permit our incipient units to be as large as required by the present situation of our fatherland, making our commander in chief's statement at the Second Party Congress concrete.

First Year Achievements

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 1 Feb 81 pp 14-15

[Interview with Brig Gen William Galvez by Lemes La Rosa: "Society for Our Times"]

[Text] On 20 January, the 120th anniversary of the birth of the Cuban national hero, Jose Marti, SEPMI will celebrate its first anniversary. We feel this is a good occasion to interview the president of that society, Brig Gen William Galvez.

[Question] Comrade, could you cite the main successes of the organization that you head?

[Answer] On this first anniversary, we have achieved success in different spheres of work like the training of young specialists for the FAR, organization and propaganda and technical-military sports.

SEPMI has grown considerably. At this time, we have 617 local associations and 80,721 members, an increase of more than 300 associations and 38,882 members.

This growth has also increased patriotic-military activities like: ideological meetings; marches and hikes to combat and labor memorials; seminars, conferences and talks; commemorations of historic dates; and visits to museums, military units and historic sites. These and others have permitted us to contribute favorably to deepening the patriotic-military awareness of our youth. We have made achievements in the use of free time by our youth--as we noted before--in patriotic-military activities and also in recreation, based on sports that are connected to military activities like air, nautical and land sports. We have also developed patriotic-military camps for our youth.

Training young specialists for the FAR has been done successfully this year. Their training has increased qualitatively and quantitatively.

[Question] During this period, how have youths participated in the different activities that SEPMI plans?

[Answer] During this first year, a large mass of youths has joined, according to our statistics. An Army Gen Raul Castro said at the closing of the Constitutional Conference, youth finds SEPMI "a suitable way to channel many of its aspirations."

Our line of work corresponds to this statement. Youths have participated massively in different activities like technical sports, marches to combat memorials, camping, etc.

[Question] What are the local associations of SEPMI and what are their objectives?

[Answer] The local associations of SEPMI are the basis of SEPMI. These are established fundamentally in work centers, factories, enterprises, cooperatives, establishments and educational centers.

The local associations insure the membership and massive and voluntary participation of youths and other members of SEPMI in patriotic-military activities and technical-military sports.

The objectives of the local associations include:

To actively develop patriotic-military work, educating the members of SEPMI in loyalty to the socialist fatherland and the party and love and respect for the FAR and internationalist education.

To insure the active participation of their members in all the work that is done to strengthen the fighting capacity of the fatherland.

To make widespread propaganda, basically with children and youths, on military knowledge and heroic and combat traditions of the people and the FAR.

To work actively with the masses of youths who study at prerecruit training centers.

Another important objective of the local associations is the organization of competitions in the different types of technical-military sports, patriotic-military camping, marches, visits to military units, etc.

[Question] How has the creation of local organizations of SEPMI in work and study centers gone this first year and what are the future plans?

[Answer] According to our statutes, the local associations are the basic nucleus of SEPMI work. They carry out a series of tasks related to training prerecruits and technical-military sports.

Through the local associations in study and work centers, their members' love for combat and historic traditions and the armed forces increases.

In practice, this work is shown by the establishment of more than 600 local associations throughout the country that have about 80,000 members. There are many at this time who want to join SEPMI and participate in its sports.

We feel that there has been progress in this sense. This year, special attention will be given to strengthening the local associations and creating new local associations in those places that meet the necessary conditions.

We need each member to have a true range of activities so we create and develop the local associations where conditions exist, at the same time increasing the sports of these associations as the material base increases.

We must also make each member feel committed to the training of prerecruits. This is another of our tasks in 1981.

During this period, we want to grow by 40 percent, increasing the quality and stability of patriotic-military activities, and guarantee the objectives of SEPMI, influencing not only its members but the patriotic love of the people in general.

In these local associations, special attention will be given to shooting instruction and patriotic-military camping as a way to better prepare our youth. In this sense, there is special interest in the student centers.

[Question] We want you to discuss the role of technical-military sports in the patriotic-military education of the youths.

[Answer] Technical sports are one of the fundamental links in the patriotic-military education of youths since they develop physical qualities like strength, resistance, agility and quick reaction in the youths, determine motor reflexes and give them the necessary dexterity to carry out difficult and complex missions as well as the knowledge that serves as the basis for their political and military training.

Technical sports are also a way to train specialists for the FAR as well as other state organisms. The practice of the different disciplines creates future drivers, pilots, paratroopers, divers, seamen, etc. They are trained in their free time.

These youths who practice any of the technical-military sports participate in patriotic activities which guarantees that, along with the technical training, they are strengthened politically and ideologically.

Technical sports are a form of recreation and relaxation which always provides knowledge and formative elements that will strongly influence the education of our youths.

[Question] What type of cooperation do the UJC [Union of Young Communists], the mass organizations, the state organisms and, especially, the FAR give SEMI?

[Answer] It seems to us that the answer to this question should be based principally on the words of Army Gen Raul Castro. He said that SEMI is "a social organization, structured on voluntarism, whose essential function is to unite the youths, organize them, provide them with new and attractive ways to use their physical energies and intelligence and, in this way, give very valuable cooperation to the army, air force and navy."

This shows the inevitable need for joint work with the political and mass organizations and the state organisms.

The UJC, FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, Organization of Pioneers, CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], the Federation of Middle School Students and the Federation of University Students play basic roles in SEMI work.

They orient their members and organize activities that are basic to SEMI. This work is done through joint plans and cooperation agreements which benefit both parties in the instruction and education of the new generations and the people in general.

This is carried out through supervision and evaluation of prerecruits and visits to parents of students with attendance and promotion problems. They cooperate to create local associations and support and participate in individual as well as collective emulation reviews and other vitally important tasks.

This year, to cite only a few examples, important cooperation agreements have been made or renewed: with ANAP to train peasant youths; with the student organizations

and the CTC to arouse interest in children and youths; and with the FMC to get girls to participate in our local associations.

We must add the joint work that we do with INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation] with support from the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education for the material and instructional base for the technical-military sports. These are aimed at support for the patriotic-military work as a whole, especially in the local associations and in work with prerecruits.

Of course, the FAR is our basic support; it contributes to financing and technical-material support.

[Question] Would you like to explain to our readers the relations between SEPMI and its counterparts in socialist countries?

[Answer] SEPMI has relations with similar organizations like DOSAAF in the USSR, GST in the GDR, SVAZARM in Czechoslovakia, OVTPN in Bulgaria, LOK in Poland, OSO in Mongolia and MHSE in Hungary.

There are also organizations in Korea, Vietnam, Romania and Yugoslavia that are not counterparts but participate in the annual meetings of the presidents of the patriotic organizations of the socialist countries.

We have received aid from these organizations like means for training young specialists and have held meetings to exchange experience with those countries. There are also sports competitions, work meetings, etc.

We have received delegations from those organizations. The support of the GST, SVAZARM, OVTPN, MHSE and, especially, DOSAAF in the USSR should be pointed out. In addition to the donation of classrooms for training young specialists, DOSAAF has sent technicians in different branches who have aided our development in shooting and parachuting courses, for example.

This cooperation has meant stability in our work and the acquisition of new experience needed for SEPMI work.

[Question] Lastly, why was Ciego de Avila Province selected for the main celebration of the first anniversary of SEPMI?

[Answer] Selection as the site for the first anniversary of the constitutional assembly of SEPMI indicates good work from the local to the provincial level.

Ciego de Avila fulfilled its plans with prerecruits quantitatively and qualitatively in addition to having its technology in good condition and optimum use.

This shows that socialist emulation fulfills its objective in our society.

We want to add that the selection of Ciego de Avila does not imply poor work in the remaining provinces. On 28 January, the vanguards for this first period will be announced.

7717
CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT--Roseau, Dominica, Monday (CANA)--Dominica ended 1980 with a whopping trade deficit of EC\$102 million according to official figures released here. The Statistical Department said that the import bill stood at EC\$127.3 million, while exports totalled 25.1 million. Imports last year more than doubled the 1979 total of \$59.9 million. Exports in that year totalled \$26 230 335. In 1979 the balance of trade deficit stood at \$34.5 million.

[Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Jan 81 p 3]

CSO: 3025

GOVERNMENT WORKERS, PRG REMAIN LOCKED IN DISPUTE

Minister's Plea

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Wednesday (CANA)--Grenada's Minister of Finance Bernard Coard has hoped here that a wages dispute between government employees and the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) would be settled "in a spirit of amity." He urged "a comradely spirit, a revolutionary spirit, a spirit of understanding the character of the economy and our financial difficulties, a spirit of honesty and integrity."

Mr Coard said the negotiations between the PRG and the workers had deadlocked.

They began on December 19 in a "cordial and mutually respectful atmosphere" with a team representing the Public Workers Union, the Grenada Union of Teachers and the Technical and Allied Workers Union, the three unions with bargaining status for government employees.

Mr Coard disclosed that the unions demand is for a 70 per cent salary increase over the next two years, while government's offer is for a 22.5 per cent increase over three years.

The Minister said the unions had been given the facts why the government's offer could not be increased.

The Union's negotiating team spent 10 days with government's negotiating team," he said, "examining in detail, item by item, Ministry and Department by ministry and department, the economic situation and the budgetary situation, and questioning the heads of department and economic enterprises with the objective of trying to find out how and where money could be found to pay higher salaries to public servants."

The minister said government's wage bill for its employees is now EC\$24 million (US\$8.9 million) per annum and the unions' demand would raise this to EC\$41 million (US\$16.3 million) in 1980. [as published]

Against that, he said, it had to be considered that Grenada's export crops earned only EC\$44 million (US\$16.3 million) in 1980.

"It is fair," he asked, "that EC\$44 million is all that we earn for our cocoa, nutmegs and bananas, and that public workers are asking for EC\$41 million?" [as published]

What would be left for farmers, agricultural workers and the unemployed? the Minister asked.

"Is it tempting to some union members and leaders to take the easy irresponsible way out and say that the workers' job is to ask for as much money as possible and the employers job to find it," Coard said, and he appealed to "those few leaders and workers who are tempted to take this position, to hold back."

The negotiating teams met again yesterday and a source said the unions had put forward a "new proposal." Another meeting was being held today, with the government expected to respond to that proposal.

New Impasse

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Grenada, Jan. 23 Negotiations between the People's Revolutionary Government and Government employees over a new wage agreement have become deadlocked again.

Discussions began on December 28 last and the first deadlock came on January 9. The workers are demanding a sliding scale over two years of 70 per cent, 90 per cent and 120 per cent increases for the top, middle and low brackets of salary earners. Government's best offer was twenty two and a half per cent across the board over three years.

Three trade unions have bargaining status for government employees--the Public Workers Union (PWU), the Grenada Union of Teachers and the Technical and Allied Workers Union.

Shortage of Funds

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Thursday, (UPI)--The ruling News Jewel Movement party says Grenada does not have the money to provide government workers with the 70 per cent pay increase their unions demand.

The movement published a pamphlet criticising three unions representing more than 2 000 government workers for demanding 70 per cent pay raises that the party says will cost \$12 million a year in salaries.

Talks between the Government and unions have broken down. Grenada's Government budgeted \$25.5 million for its ministries in its current year but its earnings will not be above \$24 million, the pamphlet charged.

Union officials said they would publish their own pamphlet.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

CLAY BRICK PRODUCTION--Some nine million claybricks are expected to be produced this year by the two factories of the Guyana National Engineering Corporation (GNEC). The sale of these should net a \$100,000 profit. The expected increased production and earnings follow a year in which the claybrick factories broke even for the first time. In 1977 the use of claybricks was almost nonexistent. But against a sale level of half a million claybricks and blocks in 1977, sales reached \$3.6 million in 1979 and was scheduled to top \$6.5 million last year--when the corporation was hard-pressed to satisfy demands. At present, discussions are progressing with Trinidad and Tobago, who have indicated their willingness to purchase claybricks. That country is also to investigate the possibilities of shipping the product themselves. The oil-rich Caricom state wants some 15 million claybricks and blocks. But GNEC has indicated that it could start supplying 200,000 units per month and after the shipping problems have been solved this could rise to about 500,000 units per month. Suriname has also indicated its desire to purchase claybricks from Guyana, a GNEC source said recently. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Jan 81 p 16]

BAUXITE PRODUCTION--Bauxite production at Guymina operations in Berbice surpassed the production target last year by some 7,000 tonnes Guymina's Berbice Operations Manager, Stephen Ng-Qui-Sang stated in a year-end message to bauxite workers. Comrade Ng-Qui-Sang, in commending the workers for their level of achievement, described 1980 as one of the most successful years of the bauxite industry in Berbice and urged them to strive to make 1981 even better. He also praised the branch officials of the union at Everton, for the support and understanding they displayed during 1980, noting that there were no strikes or major industrial problems. According to Ng-Qui-Sang, the industrial climate in 1980 was conducive to dialogue and cooperation. In his message, he called on the bauxite workers to look in retrospect at the achievements and setbacks of 1980 in order to plan their strategy in 1981 to consolidate their gains. He noted that while the stripping lead at present is greater than at the beginning of last year, the mining rate is somewhat below forecast and stockpiles at Kwakwani are depleted. But he said that with the acquisition of additional machinery this year, the industry should be able to make good in the areas of production and mining.--(GNA).

[Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 81 p 11]

TRIAL OF PPP MEMBERS--The trial of twenty-three activists of the People's Progressive Party who were picked up and charged by police in Georgetown during the election is fixed for February 26, 1981. The men were grabbed by police on December 2 last year while returning from a PPP public meeting held in Alexander village which was addressed by the Party's General Secretary, Dr. Cheddi Jagan. Charges of being in possession of offensive weapons, ammunition and public terror were slapped on them. The Georgetown Magistrate's Court refused to grant bail and they spent a few weeks in prison. However after an appeal of the Court's decision in the High Court, bail was granted. The vehicle in which the men were travelling when the cops stopped them was held up for some time and returned with the rear lights smashed. An amplifier with a microphone which were in the vehicle have not since been returned to the PPP. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Jan 81 p 2]

CNO: 3025

VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT TO VISIT, PROBABLY IN MARCH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Luis Herrera Campins, Venezuelan President, is to visit Jamaica perhaps in March to hold discussions with top level government officials and business people on economic matters and topics of mutual interest.

In preparation for that visit, Dr Jose Miguel Uzcategui, President of Venezuela's Federation of Economists, was in the island last week meeting with government officials and with private sector and academic personnel.

According to a news release from the Venezuelan Embassy, Dr Uzcategui was also here to promote the participation of Jamaican economists in the First Congress of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean slated to take place in Caracas from October 4 to 7.

Discussions

While in Jamaica Dr Uzcategui, also the Economic Adviser of the Office of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, had discussions with officials of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with the Directors of the Small Business Association, Chamber of Commerce and the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association as well as academics with a view to preparing a seminar on the relations between Jamaica and Venezuela in short as well as medium terms.

The release says that the seminar will discuss Venezuela-Jamaica cooperation in the economic, social and financing areas with the participation of leading personalities of the private and public sectors to establish the necessary basic information which would make the President's visit more fruitful.

Also this seminar will serve as a preparation for the Second Meeting of the Mixed Venezuela-Jamaica Commission to take place in Kingston soon, the news release continued.

CSO: 3025

SEAGA INTERVIEWED ON VENEZUELA TIES, CARIBBEAN POLICY

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Jan 81 p 2

[Interview with Edward Seaga, prime minister, by Maria Eugenia Diaz, special envoy of EL DIARIO DE CARACAS; article translated from Spanish by F. S. Ledger of the GLEANER; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Edward Seaga, prime minister of Jamaica, is today "the man of the Caribbean." His electoral triumph this past 31 October not only showed that the island had turned to a moderate or centrist policy, it also coloured the geopolitical map of the area.

Venezuela, perhaps understanding the present position, has intensified her interest in Jamaica over the past two months.

At least three high-level missions have been to the island and several government officials are here exploring areas of cooperation different from the petroleum facilities which have been already granted.

Q. Well, you know that no one gives something for nothing, don't you think so?

SEAGA: Well (smile). I don't like to say so. The government of Venezuela has been most kind, offering us credits and energy aid which we have accepted, but we do not think that by accepting it we are tied to any commitment to that country. These are the normal relations between countries that can export capital and countries in an inferior economic position.

Q. What has Venezuela offered you?

SEAGA: Venezuela offered financial facilities and petroleum supplies, which is an important package and we are discussing with them specific investments in which we think Venezuela could be interested. For years, also, Venezuela has granted a series of funds for various kinds of projects. So that the petroleum facilities are not the first aid that Venezuela has given Jamaica.

No commitment

Q. This Venezuelan energy assistance has also not involved a political commitment?

SEAGA: Definitely, no.

Q. The Venezuelan government has guaranteed it?

SEAGA: Definitely.

Q. What are your domestic priorities?

SEAGA: Unemployment is the number one priority. But preceding all the other problems such as unemployment, is that of restoring our economy. Without doing that we cannot solve the other problems. To restore the economy we have to close some gaps which were opened by the past government in our financial budget. A gap of 3 million United States dollars in our past budget and a similar sum in Jamaican dollars in our fiscal budget. We have to close these gaps for the normal functioning of government, and to provide basic essential goods and services for the economy.

Without closing these gaps the impact of the fall will be such that we will not be able to begin the takeoff. We ran out of food, replacement parts, basic goods such as medicines and the government cannot operate in the districts because in effect it has no money. The result would be disaster, which we have already suffered in the past for years. We have to locate sources of additional income and additional foreign exchange to close these gaps and so that we may function normally during the course of the year.

Employment

When he begin to function normally investment in mining, in energy and other types of public and private programmes will come. [As published] Here is where employment is generated. To reach these investments and create jobs we must overcome the obstacles which impede the proper functioning of the government.

Q. How do you see the present situation in the Carribean?

SEAGA: The Caribbean is, in my opinion, one of the most important areas in today's world. It is an area where there is great disorder. The political change which began in the past few years is being consolidated. The elections which have taken place in six English-speaking countries in the past few years and in the past few months have all completely rejected the policy of the left and the stand of the left. They have all definitely confirmed that the political direction of the Caribbean is that of the centre or moderate line.

Our election which was the last to take place was in the same spirit as the others. But ours, as we are the largest of the English-speaking Caribbean group, placed a seal of authority and legitimacy on this political direction. So that we can say that the Caribbean has consolidated its direction for the future. I would not say for the distant future, for the near future.

We now have to contribute to solving the economic problems. In this respect, I do not see the resources for this in the Caribbean and this is why I have called

for a "Marshall Plan" for the Caribbean and Central America. The object is to provide the region with the monetary funds we need as well as other sources of this kind, but excluding the International Monetary Fund, to increase the cultural contribution of 1,300 million dollars annually to 3,000 million dollars annually and we believe that this is completely possible. Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago are giving half through their petroleum facilities because these are new additional funds.

Venezuela

Q. I understand you consider Venezuela to be part of the Caribbean region?

SEAGA: Venezuela is part of the Caribbean Basin. Her coasts open on the waters of the Caribbean Sea. It is not only a question of her being bathed by these waters but because of the level of interest it places on the region and Venezuela is one of the leaders of the continent. She is without a doubt one of the leading countries of the region in demonstrating her interest in the region, certainly she has done so especially during the past few years. President Herrera has shown a significant interest in the Caribbean, in terms of programmes of financing more than any other country outside of the area.

Q. What will you do to co-exist peacefully with Cuba?

SEAGA: We will hold discussions with Cuba with respect to her programme of technical assistance. In charge of them are Cubans and Jamaicans in Cuba. We do not wish to break relations with Cuba, but if they do not follow the normal guidelines of normal diplomatic conduct we will have no other alternative. At this point we have had to ask for the withdrawal of the ambassador. The other ambassador has not yet been sent and in brief I believe that there are discussions pending which both governments will have to hold.

Q. Have you had any personal contact with Fidel Castro since you expelled his ambassador?

SEAGA: Not on relations between Jamaica and Cuba. Only on international relations.

Q. Have you met with him?

SEAGA: No.

Herrera Campins

Q. When do you expect that President Luis Herrera Campins will visit Jamaica?

SEAGA: We hope early next year.

Q. Why did you visit Washington first and not Caracas?

SEAGA: Because there is a new administration in Washington (smile), as the result of an election and it was necessary for us to establish contacts. It will be more difficult to get the necessary time to discuss our problems with them. It was essential for me to converse with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and other institutions...but I certainly hope to visit your country.

Q: Why are you expecting President Herrera? Did you invite him?

SEAGA: A formal invitation has to be made at an appropriate time. We have reason to believe that apart from the agreement recently signed on the petroleum question he would be interested in visiting this country, as he has done to other countries with which he has signed.

Q: What place does Venezuela have in your foreign policy?

SEAGA: Venezuela is one of the countries with which we hope to have close cooperation. We see Venezuela as one of the most important countries for the region and having a policy on the same line as ours, there is sufficient space for agreements between us on external matters.

Q: Why do you think that Venezuela is so important for the region?

SEAGA: It is very important as an exporter of petroleum which is used in the region and as a benefactor country of petroleum facilities, granting important credit facilities to countries of the region such as ourselves. Venezuela has reached a level of development higher than that of other countries in the region and is in a better position to assist them.

CSG: 5025

NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCE NOTED FOR FIRST HALF OF 1980

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jan 81 p 16

[Text] From January to July, last year, Jamaica experienced a negative trade balance of \$126.9 million, with imports totalling \$1,080.4 million and exports amounting to \$953.5 million.

According to the External Trade Statistical Bulletin of the Department of Statistics, figures for the corresponding period of 1979, were imports, \$934.8 million and exports, \$848.6 million, showing a deficit trade balance of \$86.2 million.

Imports in U.S. currency for the period January to July, 1980, were \$603.5 million, while total exports were \$533.6 million. The adverse trade balance stood at \$69.9 million. Corresponding figures for 1979 were imports, \$544.1 million and total exports, \$481.0 million, with the balance being \$63.1 million.

Imports for July, 1980, stood at \$189.5 million, which was \$34.8 million or 22.5% above the June value of \$154.7 million. The section "Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials," which was \$37.8 million in June and \$89.0 million in July, was mainly responsible for this increase.

Total exports were valued at \$162.7 million, which represents an increase of \$8.5 million or 5.5% above the June value.

Between June and July, imports from other Caribbean countries and the Latin American Common Market showed marked increases while the fall in exports to the European Common Market was more than counter balanced by the increased exports to North America.

There was a general decline in trade with CARICOM countries in July 1980. Imports fell to \$5.8 million from a June value of \$10.5 million. Total exports fell marginally to \$8 million from a June value of \$8.6 million. --API

CSO: 3025

TROUBLES AT JBC DEEPEN WITH NEWS DEPARTMENT DISMISSALS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Jan 81 pp 1, 13

[Text] The Interim Board of Directors of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation, yesterday dismissed 16 temporary and freelance workers, and said it was "seriously considering" closing the News Department and rebuilding it from scratch.

Yesterday's dismissals brought to 20 the number of employees so far dismissed by the Interim Board which is carrying out a restructuring exercise it said was aimed at making the Corporation viable.

Among the latest dismissals were television continuity announcers Hope Thewell, Alison Holness and Donna Haynes and television news editor, Patrick Smikle. The 16 employees were handed letters informing them of their dismissal yesterday.

The dismissals were followed by a letter from the Board to the Corporation in which it said that it was not satisfied with the handling of the news over the past month and cited several examples of news items described as inaccurate.

The Board said it was dissatisfied with the news coverage of the General Echo shooting; the shooting of Roy McGann and the slandering of then Opposition Leader Edward Seaga, among other news items. It said that based on the unsatisfactory handling of editorial responsibility, it was seriously considering closing the News Department and rebuilding it from scratch.

If the News Department is closed, it would be the second Department to be closed since the restructuring move began. Last week the Board scrapped the Current Affairs Department, dismissing its head of section, Mr John Maxwell, Mr Tony Bogue, Producer of the call-in programme "Public Eye," Mr Brian Meeks one-time host of the television programme, "Sunday Report" and transferring a fourth worker.

The National Workers' Union which represents workers including Mr Meeks and Mr Bogue has described their dismissal as "a clear case of political victimization" and a breach of their collective labour agreement with the Corporation.

Both the management of the Corporation and the NWU met yesterday at the Ministry of Labour to discuss the issue, but the meeting ended without agreement. The

management said that the Board had scrapped the Current Affairs Section and made the workers redundant. The union maintained that the act was political and had breached the labour contract in which it was agreed that there would be no lay-offs. The contract expires on December 31 this year.

The Labour Ministry's Director of Industrial Relations, Mr Tony Irons, who presided at the meeting, said that he would consult with the Minister and resume the meeting next week Tuesday afternoon. He has asked both parties not to take any industrial action in the interim.

In the meantime, the General Manager of the JBC, Mr Wycliffe Bennett will meet this morning with the workers in the News Department. It is expected that the Board's letter about closing the Department will be discussed at the meeting.

CSO: 3025

FORTY PERCENT INCREASE IN NONTRADITIONAL EXPORTS PREDICTED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Prospects are excellent for an increase of as much as 40 percent in non-traditional exports during 1981--providing exporter needs for raw materials and foreign exchange can be met--according to the Jamaica Exporters' Association.

This conclusion has been arrived at by the association following a study of figures obtained in a survey of exporters conducted over the past fortnight. The increase will follow two successive years of improved performance figures for this sector, despite the many problems faced due to the country's strained economic circumstances.

Commenting on the situation, Mr Prakash Vaswani, president of the J.E.A. said that in 1979 exports for the non-traditional sector had totalled US\$129 million (J\$230.4 million). According to preliminary figures for 1980, export performance last year in this sector climbed to U.S.\$160 million (J\$286 million), an increase of 24 percent.

"A detailed survey of exporters in the non-traditional sector conducted over the past two weeks shows that performance during 1981 can be expected to reach a total of some U.S.\$200 million (J\$357.6 million) or an increase of 40 percent.

"This presumes that exporters will be given the tools necessary to perform, that raw materials, spare parts, needed machinery, and such foreign exchange as is necessary can be made available," Mr Vaswani said.

This increased performance would mean the creation of an additional 3,600 jobs in the non-traditional export sector; and, if expected facilities were provided, the target was "completely realistic" and could be comfortably achieved, he added.

Mr Vaswani said it was interesting that the 24 percent improvement in performance in 1980 over 1979 was achieved in the face of serious problems, such as violence in the community, drying up of credit facilities, serious raw material shortages, and insufficient foreign exchange to meet exporter needs.

"It is a tribute to the diligence and determination of the non-traditional exporters and a clear indication that they are seriously doing their utmost to make a maximum contribution to the improvement of Jamaica's economic situation and to the restoration of Jamaica to vibrant economic health," he commented.

CSO: 3025

BRITISH ACTION ON SUGAR IMPORTS VIEWED WITH ALARM

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Jan 81 p 11

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Sunday, (CANA)--Officials of the state-owned sugar-producing company, Caroni Limited, last Friday expressed alarm over a decision by British importers Tate and Lyle to cease operations at their Liverpool refinery.

Caroni's general manager, Gordon Maingot, said: "Our worst fears have come to pass. This move could mean international decline of sugar, which is now really fighting on the international market."

Mr Maingot stated that 80 per cent of Trinidad and Tobago's planned sugar exports will be without markets if Tate and Lyle went ahead with the plan.

He stated: "We export about 200 000 tonnes of sugar of this 160 000 tonnes go there (Britain), so we now have to find a home for this 160 000 tonnes."

He said he had known of the plan to shut down the Liverpool refinery, but never thought that it would be implemented.

In other sugar news, Rennie Mohammed, head negotiator for Caroni Limited on Friday said that the company had increased its offer of a 32 per cent earnings increase to the two unions representing sugar cane farmers and employees of the company to 60 per cent for a three-year industrial wage agreement.

The all Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, and the island-wide Cane Farmers Association are yet to respond to the latest offer.

Both unions are demanding salaries which would put sugar workers on the same pay level as other employees in state-owned corporations.

There are 10 000 sugar cane farmers working with Caroni Limited.

CSO: 3025

1980 CITRUS CROP CALLED BEST IN FIVE YEARS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] The 1979-80 citrus crop production has recorded a substantial increase in deliveries to the processing factories--1,117,488 boxes, compared to 711,778 boxes in 1978-79, an increase of approximately 55 percent.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the Citrus Growers Association, at the George Lyle Educational Centre in Kingston on Tuesday, the Chairman of the Association, Mr Ivan Tomlinson, said last year's production was the highest of the previous five years.

However, Mr Tomlinson said, though this performance was encouraging, it should be recalled that it was still substantially below the 1961-66 period when the production varied between 1.5 million and 1.8 million boxes.

He said while there had been no organised quantity survey of local consumption of citrus fruits in Jamaica, but a rough estimate suggested that about 60 percent of sweet orange, 40 percent of ortanique, 20 percent of early grapefruit, and and 60 percent of sweet seeded grapefruit, were consumed locally.

Based on this assumption total production of citrus has been estimated at 2,103,300 boxes.

He said that although prices of all varieties of citrus had been increased recently, there was still a large difference between what was supplied to the factories and what was sold on the local (consumers') market.

Mr Tomlinson said that some of the problems encountered by the industry over the year in review were: poor rainfall distribution in the main growing areas; low supply and high prices of critically needed inputs; inadequate transportation; praedial larceny; and general neglect of many orchards.

U.K. Market

During the year, he said, six shipments of grapefruit went to the United Kingdom market. There was a record amount of ortaniques exported--118,206 boxes, compared to 59,103 boxes the year before. However, a trial shipment of fresh oranges resulted in a financial loss.

Mr Tomlinson said that last year it was anticipated that 2,155 acres of new citrus would have been established. However, only 717 acres were planted, about one-third of the original target.

He said a recent survey indicated that about 5,000 acres of citrus island-wide, needed resuscitation. To date about 1,000 acres had been treated.

During the period under review, the Bog Walk plant processed 625,219 boxes of citrus of all varieties, and packed 65,028 boxes for export. Some of the problems encountered were in the area of transportation from field to factory, and the poor quality of fruit received, especially sweet orange.

He appealed to the Association's branches and individual farmers to pay particular attention to the maturity of fruits offered to the factory.

Sixty, of the 92 delegates who were eligible, attended the meeting.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

PARISH COUNCIL RULES--New rules governing the financial affairs of Parish Councils have been gazetted, the Minister of Local Government, the Hon. Parnell Charles told the House of Representatives on Tuesday. Mr Charles in a statement to the House said that the rules governed the form in which Parish Councils are to prepare and submit their estimates; the receipt of and expenditure of moneys and accounting for the Councils; and, any matter which the Minister considers desirable for the carrying out of the Act. The new rules have been published in the Jamaica GAZETTE Supplement dated January 15, 1981. Mr Charles said that the rigid application of the rules was the next step, and managers in the parishes would be told in clear language that those rules must be enforced and could not be relaxed in favour of any individual. Mr Charles said that there had been glaring examples of dishonesty in some councils, but that those committing the acts were a minority. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Jan 81 p 2]

CSO: 3025

ODLUM PROTESTS ACTIONS OF FRENCH TERRITORIES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Jan 81 p 12

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Wednesday, (CAN/)- The Government of St Lucia will convey to the French authorities "in the strongest possible terms" its dissatisfaction with the present treatment of St. Lucian nationals by customs officials in the French territories of Martinique and Guadeloupe, Minister of Foreign Affairs, George Odium has told Parliament.

The Minister said that recent complaints by nationals seeking entry into both Martinique and Guadeloupe pointed to arbitrary arrests and deportation.

There were also complaints that those St. Lucians detained by the French immigration and customs were accommodated in small prison cells without access to telephone and other facilities, Mr Odium said.

The Foreign Minister's statement to Parliament came as no surprise as reports of ill-treatment of nationals at the two airports in Martinique and Guadeloupe have circulated here for some time.

No official explanation has come from the French to justify their behaviour, but it is known that in recent times a number of St. Lucians have been deported for illegal entry in to Martinique.

This was not the reason given, however, when French authorities slapped restrictions on St. Lucians entering the French colonies.

One year ago, French Ambassador to St. Lucia Rene de Choiseul-Praslin, announced that would-be immigrants had to leave a deposit of EC\$2 500 at the airport, and had to possess a letter of recommendation from their employer and confirmation of a place of residence.

Although a visa system was introduced for St. Lucians and Dominicans towards the end of last year those restrictions have not been eased.

The minister told Parliament that the visa system was posing problems and could not be implemented in the near future. He said the attitude of the French was difficult to understand, and was in contradiction of their official position which allows very little difficulty for nationals travelling between the island.

"What's more, the attitude of the previous and present administration to the entry of nationals from the two French neighbouring islands have been humane and understanding. We have tried our best to keep open a type of system which will allow them up to a point full access to St. Lucia," the minister noted.

The Foreign Minister added the St. Lucia Government had tried at the diplomatic level to ease the level of hostility but had apparently failed.

Mr Odum told Parliament that in the weeks ahead certain proposals will be put before Cabinet in an attempt to resolve the situation, without having to resort to reprisals. He said government will submit a strong protest note to the French and ask them to outline their immigration policy in respect of St Lucian nationals visiting Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Government, he said, was also considering the establishment of consular facilities in the two French islands for locals who were encountering difficulties in obtaining passports.

CSO: 3025

OIL FIELD, FEDCHEM WORKERS PRESS FOR NEW AGREEMENTS

Industrial Action

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Friday, (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago's Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OFWTU) seems headed for a showdown with officials of state corporations and private enterprises unless several major industrial disputes are resolved by Monday.

The streets of the industrial centre of San Fernando were again thronged with workers for the fourth consecutive day--as they instituted industrial action to press demands for new agreements, and amenities.

Following Wednesday's demonstration outside the office of Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, Mr Weekes, the OFWTU President General, told a massive crowd, that if Federation Chemicals and the OFWTU did not reach an agreement by Monday, he would issue a call for a one-day sickout by all members of the union.

Weekes said his call would be in addition to similar ones he plans to issue to other unions, requesting that they call all their members out from their jobs.

The OFWTU and Federation Chemicals have been at loggerheads since last month following a breakdown in negotiations for a three-year agreement covering wages, a pension plan and safety amenities for the company's 425 hourly and weekly rated workers.

Major grouse of the company is the 50 per cent wage increase demanded by the union for the workers. Company officials claimed that the first-year payments, a request of 25 per cent already would exceed TT\$8 million and that the company could not afford that much money.

The workers are calling on government to nationalise the company, a demand they said they would be pressing even if the wages being sought are agreed on.

In other industrial news workers at the Trinidad and Tobago Electric Company (TTEC) in San Fernando are flexing their muscles to show support for 52 of their colleagues who were locked out last week by the corporation.

The 52 workers, all operators, were locked out following a breakdown in negotiations between the OFWTU, and TTEC, over a new three year wage agreement. The union is demanding 53 per cent increases while the corporation is offering 37. Negotiations have been deadlocked since their resumption on Wednesday.

In oil company disputes, both Trinidad and Tobago Tesoro, at Palasecon, South Trinidad, and Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (TRINTOC) at Point Fortin, were hit by sick-out over the week.

Work Week Settlement

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Jan 81 p 1

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Friday (CANA)--The Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) which has been locked in an industrial dispute with the state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC), has announced that an agreement had been reached with the company for a reduction in the work week of TTEC employees.

The employees at the company's Southern Division took industrial action to press demands for a reduction of their work week, and the company responded by locking out the workers.

However, president general of the OWTU George Weekes said that workers at TTEC's Point Lisas and Penal outlets would now be working 36 hours weekly instead of the current 42.

Despite the settlement, the country's industrial relations climate remain almost unchanged as more industrial action continued throughout the country.

Workers at the state-owned Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC), brought operations to another standstill with their fourth sickout in eight days.

The company and the workers bargaining body, the Transport and Industrial Workers Trade Union, have been meeting for over one year now, negotiating a new three year wage agreement for the PTSC's 300 plus worker force.

Renewed Call for Nationalization

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Jan 81 p 6

[Text] San Fernando: Government is to get a second petition calling for nationalisation of the multi-million dollar Federation Chemicals, Limited at Point Lisas.

A meeting of shop stewards and branch officers of Oilfields Workers Trade Union. (OWTU) met on Saturday and decided to draft a petition to be signed by all officers and shop stewards of the union for transmission to the Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams, calling for the peoples' ownership of the company and industry.

Mr George Weekes, President General, said such action by the union was to show further support for the Fedchem workers and their families.

Meeting Today

Recently, a delegation from OWTU, headed by Mr Weekes, handed a first petition to Government, on behalf of the workers.

Meanwhile, the union and company are expected to meet today at the Ministry of Labour, in Port-of-Spain in yet another attempt aimed at finding a solution to their existing problems.

The company's 400-plus, hourly-rated, weekly-paid workers have been on strike for six weeks without any signs of a settlement.

They took strike action to protest delay by the company in acceding to their demands for higher wages and improved working conditions, among other things.

The company, on the other hand, believed that so far, its offers have been very good.

Government Proposal

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jan 81 p 6

[Text] San Fernando--Minister of Labour and Special Security, Senator Desmond Cartey, threw out ideas on Tuesday to representatives of Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) and Federation Chemicals, Limited, aimed at settling the current labour unrest at the company.

Mr George Weekes, President General of OWTU, said they would study what the Minister said. Next meeting is scheduled at 10 a.m. tomorrow, at the Ministry.

A company spokesman confirmed that the company was represented at Tuesday's meeting, but gave no further details.

Strike by 400-plus, hourly-rated, daily-paid workers of Fedchem is now in its seventh week, and from inquiries, there are immediate signs of settlement.

The workers, represented by OWTU, took legal strike action to press demands for higher wages, and improved working conditions, among other things.

They are also calling on Government to nationalise the company and industry.

A check yesterday revealed that with the exception of the Tringen plant in which Government has 51 per cent shares, all other plants have been shut down.

Strike Escalation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] More than 800 workers are without jobs following a breakdown in industrial relations at four major companies in the country.

On Tuesday, Caribbean Packaging Industries (CPI) fired 103 workers after, the company claimed, they had taken illegal strike action. On Monday, Trinity Motors locked out 100 workers at its Port-of-Spain and San Fernando office following the breakdown in negotiations for a new industrial agreement.

Last week the construction firm of Motilal Mooman dismissed its 250-man workforce while down at Federation Chemicals 350 workers are continuing strike action.

At Fedchem the workers embarked on strike action last December 8 and up to yesterday the employees were still outside the company's gates on their daily picket.

All the matters have been reported to the Ministry of Labour. This morning Labour conciliators will be meeting CPI and representatives of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union to iron out differences. Yesterday the Ministry held talks with Fedchem and the OWTU, which represents workers at both CPI and Fedchem.

Yesterday the dismissed CPI workers stormed the Mt Hope plant and vowed not to move until they were reinstated.

Mr David Abdulah, OWTU's Education and Research Officer said yesterday that CPI dismissed 240 workers on Tuesday, following industrial action taken by workers to protest the dismissal of the union's branch secretary on January 29.

The company has since filed two injunctions in the Industrial Court against the OWTU asking that the union be deregistered and fined.

The company, however, has said that 103 workers were dismissed following 'illegal strike action' by the workers. The spokesman said the workers were advised that the action they were taking was in violation of the industrial contract between the union and the company and there were certain procedures which had to be followed during disputes.

The workers, however, are determined to remain on the company's compound "for as long as possible."

One of the workers said yesterday they were expressing sympathy for their branch Secretary when the strike was staged.

About 40 workers--15 women--were on the compound last night.

The union and CPI executives are to meet today at the Ministry.

In the meantime, Trinity Motors has locked out its 100 workers at its two centres in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando. A new industrial agreement was being worked out between the company and (CGWBU) Contractors and General Workers Trade Union when a breakdown in negotiations took place and the company served the notice to the union stating that it intended to lock out the workers.

The union is demanding that \$7.50 an hour be paid an A class tradesman, but the company is offering \$6 an hour.

Mr Owen C. Hinds, president general of the union, said the matter had been raised with the Ministry of Labour and the last agreement between the union and the company expired last June.

On January 21, Motilal Mooman sacked 250 workers after his employees refused to take up work for four consecutive days, a company spokesman had reported.

The labour row is at the Ministry of Labour for conciliation.

(50) 1025

TOBAGO ASSEMBLY LEADER CRITICIZES TRINIDAD ACTIONS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Friday (CANAL) — Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, A. N. R. Robinson, has accused the central administration in Port-of-Spain of trying to frustrate the will of the Tobago electorate.

The House of Assembly was inaugurated last month and Mr. Robinson's Democratic Action Congress has an 11-4 majority over the ruling party in Trinidad and Tobago, the People's National Movement (PNM).

Mr. Robinson, delivering a report at yesterday's second Assembly session, charged the central Government with refusing to comply with Section 21(1) of the Act establishing the Tobago House. "Section 21," Robinson said, "provides for the Assembly to formulate as well as implement policy or any matter whatever referred to it by the Minister (Responsible for Tobago)."

"It is the Minister's continuing refusal to accept as reality this crucial section of the Act that threatens Tobago with prolonged administrative confusion. I say crucial because it is this subsection of the Act which is really designed to make better provision for the administration of Tobago...." Mr. Robinson said.

He referred to the manifesto of the PNM for last November elections and quoted from a section which read, "Bold in

concept and imagination, the Assembly is designed to enable the people of Tobago to manage their affairs and to participate more fully in the shaping of their destiny."

Mr. Robinson added: "What has been painfully obvious is the determination of the Government to jettison the policy, defy the law and frustrate the will of the Tobago electorate." Yesterday's statement by Mr. Robinson, a former Deputy Prime Minister in a previous PNM administration, has again highlighted the friction which has developed between his D.A.C. and the central Government. He has already accused the Tobago Minister, Patrick Manning of treating him like a schoolboy.

He "took pains", as Mr. Robinson put it, to point out that to get the Assembly established took four years work.

"The popular expectation is that the House of Assembly will give expression to this new spirit (in Tobago) and attend effectively to the island's needs and its development. This is the task before us come what may."

Mr. Robinson considered the official leader of Tobago, concludes his remarks by asking, "Members of the Assembly, shall the voice of Tobago always be one crying in the wilderness?"

IMPORT, EXPORT STATISTICS FOR YEAR REPORTED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Jan 81 p 4

(Text)

DURING September to August, last year Trinidad and Tobago imported goods to the value of \$1.326 million while exports amounted to \$6.934 million of which \$6.584 represented domestic exports, recording a favourable balance of visible trade totalling \$1.667 million.

This compares with \$3.633 million, total imports and \$4.343 million total exports of which \$4.277 were domestic exports for the same period in 1979.

The Petroleum sector accounted for 26 per cent of total imports and 53 per cent (\$6.66million) of total exports.

Excluding petroleum, imports amounted to \$3.341 million and exports to \$4.79 million.

The principal commodities imported during the first three quarters of last year were cereal and cereal preparations, \$138 million, fruits and vegetables, \$96 million, dairy products and eggs, \$87 million. This section accounted for 9.7 per cent of total imports compared with 10.3 per cent in 1979.

Major items of export were sugar and sugar preparations, \$74 million, in coffee, tea, spices, \$33 million. Cereal and cereal preparations, \$26 million. This section constituted 2.2 per cent of all exports.

Total imports for January to September last year

when compared with 1979 showed that mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials increased by \$1,009 million machinery and transport equipment by \$159 million and manufacturing goods by \$141.

The value of imports under Caricom agreement during that period was \$176 million, 1.3 per cent of total imports. Domestic Exports under the agreement totalled \$291 million or 4.2 per cent of total domestic exports.

The main sources of Trinidad and Tobago's imports were Jamaica, 34.4 per cent, Barbados, 22.4 per cent and Guyana 22.3 per cent.

Exports to Barbados absorbed 24 per cent, Guyana, 21.8 per cent, Antigua, 16.9 per cent, Jamaica, 14 per cent, and St. Lucia, 8.6 per cent.

Imports from Barbados and Guyana showed increases of 26.7 per cent and 18.4 per cent while imports from Jamaica decreased by 4.4 per cent.

Domestic exports to Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana showed increases of 120 per cent, 60.9 per cent, 22.4 per cent respectively when compared with 1979.

Excluding the petroleum sector, Caricom agreement imports valued \$176 million and domestic exports \$108 million.

BRIEFS

TOBAGO ADMINISTRATOR--Mr Horace Arnyn Bailey, Acting Director of Public Administration, has been appointed Permanent Secretary for the Administration of Tobago. Mr Bailey, 53, will take up his appointment next week. His substantial position is Deputy Director of Public Administration but he has been acting in the top position in the absence of the Director. His appointment to Permanent Secretary has been made by the Public Service Commission and he will be attached to the Ministry of Finance as Permanent Secretary for the Central Administration of the island. Born in Belmont, Mr Bailey joined the public service in 1947 in the Ministry of health, and later served as a clerk in the Works and Hydraulics Department. He joined the Service Commission Department in 1961 as a Clerk. During his career, Mr Bailey has attended several courses and holds the diploma in personnel administration. He also holds a certificate in public administration from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. Mr Bailey attended a specialised training course on a United Nations fellowship in Italy in 1972, and in 1978, attended a special course at the University of Pittsburg in administrative management. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Jan 81 p 1]

DECLINING MILK OUTPUT--Milk production in Trinidad and Tobago continues to show a steady decline. Between 1972 and 1980 milk received at the Nestle factory at Valaavon which utilises 75 per cent of the milk produced in the country, fell from a high of 4,885 gallons a day to 2,906 last year. This compares with the current national need of approximately 12,000 gallons per day, according to dairy experts. Over the last ten years milk production peaked at 1,783,076 in 1972 but last year's intake of milk was 1,060,801 gallons. The decline was triggered by the drought in the early seventies which according to farmers has shown that factory produced concentrates and nutrients are only supportive of grass grown on farms. In an attempt to restore this first line of food supply for cattle farmers are paying increased attention to brush cutting by tractor for the elimination of weeds, the planting of grass, regular fertilising and ensilage (green fodder stored in silos). Figures from the Central Statistical Office, tell the same story. Milk production in the Wallerfield, Emeralds, Carlson Field and Turure areas showed a decrease in the first six months of last year when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. Milk production in January to June last year was 1,581,000 as compared with 1,736,000 in the same period in 1979, although the number of farms and cattle had increased. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jan 81 p 10]

PANDAY CRITICISM--Leader of the Opposition, Mr Basdeo Panday, said yesterday Government was playing with sugar as a "political football" and added that they had no intention of implementing the Sugar Rationalisation Report. Commenting on yesterday's report that Government was planning to restructure Stateowned Caroni Ltd and merge it with Orange Grove, Mr Panday said it was on his motion that the Rationalisation Committee was set up in 1977 and which reported in 1978 on how to rationalise the industry to make it economically viable. "To date Government has not implemented one single recommendation in that report" Mr Panday said "Instead what they have been doing is taking away large areas of Caroni land for all kinds of purposes, knowing full well that rationalisation is based on the retention of the lands for agriculture. Mr Panday described as "shadow boxing the plan to merge the two companies. Government's plan shows clearly they have no intention of dealing with the broader problems of agriculture and the more particular problems facing the sugar industry. They have refused to deal with the major problem which is the lack of accountability and the management's attitude to change, he added. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 25 Jan 81 p 1]

LABOR CONGRESS ADDITIONS--The Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress has approved membership in the organisation for three trade unions. They are the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, the Sugar Industry Staff Association and the Managers and Supervisors Association. Congress also decided to amend its constitution to permit a 50 per cent increase in annual affiliation fees. The three new members now bring to 17 the number of unions affiliated to Congress. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jan 81 p 1]

CANE WORKER SHORTAGE--Caroni Limited has been hit by a shortage of workers for the 1981 crop. The company said it wanted 675 cutters and bundlers for harvesting operations. The inability of the company to recruit the required labour has affected the supply of cane to the company's factories. Hampering delivery of cane to the factories has been the condition of fields and access roads, which have been affected by heavy rains this month, according to the company's periodical CARONI NEWS. The condition of the fields has also affected the mechanical harvesting, since sending the harvesters into the field would be risking damage to the fields and ratoons. It would also increase the chances of the machines getting stuck in the mud. Mr Lyle Donowa, agricultural manager of Caroni, said: "It seems that people do not care to cut canes again," and pointed out that a shortage of such workers would affect the crop "very seriously." Farmers will receive \$42 a ton for the first interim payment this year, which is a 20 per cent increase over last year's first interim payment of \$35 a ton. Approximately 7,000 farmers are contracted to sell canes to Caroni, and last year they received \$19 million for the first interim. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jan 81 p 4]

CSO: 3025

PARTIES AT LOGGERHEADS OVER CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT

Opposition Criticism

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Jan 81 p 10

[Article by Anthony Forbes] Turks and Caicos opposition leader, Oswald Skippings charged Monday that the Turks' economy is breaking down while 90 per cent of the people are "screaming" because of victimization by the new government.

Mr Skippings, head of the official opposition Peoples Democratic Movement, claims there is widespread conflict of interest among government officials. There is also an increase in illegal drug trafficking since the November 4, 1980 general elections, he says.

In that election, Mr Skippings' PDM party was defeated by the Progressive National Party headed by Chief Minister Norman Saunders. Mr Skippings, who was Chief Minister until his party's defeat, succeeded the late James "Jags" McCartney, who was killed in a plane crash last May.

At a press conference at the Grand Central Hotel, Charlotte Street, Mr Skippings said that word was expected early this week from the Supreme Court on three petitions against the election of three PNP members.

The Chief Minister, Mr Saunders, is one of those being challenged. The others are Walter Cox, Providenciales, and Alvary Butterfield, North Caicos.

Mr Skippings claims his lawyers, headed by lawyer Cecil Wallace Whitfield, have a clear-cut case without any technicalities involved.

"According to the Constitution, they were not qualified to have been nominated, hence they should not have been returned," said Mr Skippings.

He said it has been argued that his party filed the petitions too late, but pointed out that it was done within the law--seven days after the returns from the elections had been made.

"The economic situation at home is at a breakdown," said the former Chief Minister. "Ninety per cent of population are screaming because of victimization."

He charged that people who were working on a job over 10 years, have been fired and replaced by strong supporters of the conservative new government that has an 8-3 majority over the radical opposition PDM.

He claims a retired supporter of the government who runs a gas station and is on pension, replaced a young man with family who was fired from his job after the PNP victory.

"Of course, this is not going down lightly," said Mr Skippings who added that in some areas, including Salt Cay and the Caicos Islands, the five-day work week has been reduced to one and a half days.

"How can these people survive?" he asked, pointing out that some of them only made about \$60 a week. He said the Family Islands of Turks and Caico, where government got most of its votes, are feeling it more than the people from Grand Turk.

He also said that pilots at the Turks national airline had their monthly salary cut by \$500, and have threatened to leave and go into private business.

Mr Skippings said that a number one supporter of the government has been placed on the board of directors of a local airline, which, he claims is a direct conflict of interest, and the government is seeking to have the national airline taken out of its hands.

He also claimed that workers of the islands' health department are only working half days, while many have been fired and replaced by party supporters.

"This is destroying everything that we had set up," said Mr Skippings.

He said a generator bought by his government had already broken down and power cuts were expected. The only water truck changed hands and crashed the following day, he claimed.

He said that McCartney Village, a resort, has been closed and its name changed back to the Naval Base, which

he said was a direct affront to the name of the late Chief Minister, J A G S McCartney.

He said buildings on the complex have been given to a man to set up a solar energy shop, which could ruin it.

The islands' police force were given a large salary increase, but some policemen, mostly foreigners, are disgruntled because of double standards and are leaving he claimed.

Mr Skippings said there was hardly any work in South Caicos, where fishermen are out of work because of the closure of the fish processing plants.

He said no representation was made by the government on behalf of the fishermen since the closure of the plants a week before Christmas.

And drug traffic, Mr Skippings said, is also on the increase.

He said that a problem the government has in South Caicos is the legalising of drugs which it promised to do during the election campaign, but now cannot do.

Mr Skippings said the government also promised to

keep the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) out of the country, but he was assured by State Department officials in the United States, that the DEA will return.

"They were saying that they had investors right around the corner who would do this and do that, but so far none of them has surfaced," he said.

"It is evidently visible that the economic, social and cultural revolution that was begun by the late J A G S McCartney and continued by me, is now stagnant and there is now widespread discontent throughout the islands," he said.

He said that the morale in his party "is still very high" and although it suffered a national setback in the elections, it gave the electorate an opportunity to prove the difference in the calibre and interest of the other party.

The islands Legislative Council will open on Wednesday with the reading of the Speech from The Throne. The PDM will hold its convention in June.

Probe of PDM Administration

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Jan 81 p 10

[Text] Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos (CANA)--Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands Norman Saunders, has announced here that a Commission of Inquiry is to be set up to investigate the dealings of the former People's Democratic Movement (PDM) government.

Mr Saunders said the commission would be required to look into the manner in which public funds were spent, the granting of government contracts, the giving away of Crown Land to friends and supporters of the PDM, and several other matters.

The announcement by Mr Saunders was broadcast over Radio Turks and Caicos during 'Newsbeat,' a regular weekly news programme.

According to the Chief Minister "the previous PDM government has left behind a debt of over two and a quarter million dollars, and it is felt that the former minister should give an account as to how this state of affairs came about, especially in view of the fact that only a few months ago they claimed to have balanced the budget."

Meantime, the new session of Parliament is to officially open today with Governor John Strong expected to read the throne speech.

Also Mr Saunders will lead a team of government officials to Washington and London between January 20 to 30 to discuss new prospects of investment in the country.

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